

REMARKS

Claims 1, 22, 25-30, 32, 33 and 37 are amended. Claims 23 and 24 are canceled. Claim 162 is added. Claims 1-6, 9-22, 25-30, 32, 33, 37 and 162 are in the application for consideration.

Applicant's independent claim 1 stands rejected in one instance as being obvious over a combination of Sinha et al. and Marohl et al., and in another instance as being obvious over a combination of Fodor et al. and Marohl et al. The undersigned believes claim 1 as last-presented was novel and not obvious over any of these three references whether taken alone or in any combination. Specifically, Applicant's independent claim 1 as last-presented did not read upon Applicant's Fig. 8 embodiment, nor upon any of the embodiments of Sinha et al. nor Fodor et al., and not upon any of the embodiments of the newly discovered Marohl et al. reference.

Nevertheless, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 for clarification. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to recite that the recess comprises an outer peripheral vertical sidewall, and that the projections respectively comprise a radially inner vertical sidewall all of which aligns with and extends outwardly from the recess outer peripheral vertical sidewall to a projection radially extending uppermost straight surface which is angled radially downward toward the substrate receiving recess. Further, claim 1 is amended to emphasize that the projections respectfully comprise a vertical radially outermost peripheral edge, for example edge 54 as depicted in Fig. 4. Additionally, claim 1 is amended to recite that the radially extending uppermost straight surface extends

radially outward to an elevationally uppermost location which is received radially at the vertical radially outermost peripheral edge. For example, and by way of example only with respect to Applicant's Fig. 4, the point or tip of the arrowhead extending from the lead line which extends from reference numeral 53 points to an elevationally uppermost location of surface 52 which is received radially at the vertical radially outermost peripheral edge designated by the lead line extending from reference numeral 54.

Turning now to the Examiner's rejections, the Examiner asserts that Sinha et al. discloses that its projections 224 have radially inner sidewalls which align with and extend outwardly from a recess outer peripheral sidewall perpendicularly relative to a recess base. Sinha et al. does not disclose such. Regardless and for emphasis, Applicant's claim 1 has been amended to recite that its recess comprises an outer peripheral vertical sidewall. The recess depicted in Sinha et al.'s. Figs. 5 and 6 does not have an outer peripheral vertical sidewall which connects with and extends perpendicularly from its recess base. Specifically in Fig. 6, the angled surface opposite the lead line extending from reference numeral 220 is neither vertical nor connecting with and extending perpendicularly from a recess base. There simply is no outer peripheral vertical sidewall in the Sinha et al. recess. Accordingly, in no way can Sinha et al. be construed as disclosing a radially inner vertical sidewall of a projection which aligns with and extends outwardly from a surface it simply does not have (namely, a recess outer peripheral vertical sidewall). Further, it would not be obvious to modify the structure disclosed by Sinha et al. whether taken alone or

in combination with Marohl et al. as doing so would defeat the fundamental purpose of Sinha et al. to provide peripheral purge gas flow through its conduit 220. For the foregoing reasons, Sinha et al. does not disclose that which the Examiner asserted in the previous action.

Further with respect to Sinha et al., amended claim 1 recites that the radially extending uppermost straight surface of the projection must extend radially outward to an elevationally uppermost location which is received radially at the vertical radially outermost peripheral edge of such projection. Such does not occur in Sinha et al. To do so, the Sinha et al. surface 230 would need to extend to the point/corner proximate the lead line extending from reference numeral 231. It does not. Accordingly, Applicant's claim 1 for this additional reason recites something which is not disclosed by Sinha et al.

Regarding Marohl et al., it also does not disclose a radially extending uppermost straight surface of its projection extending radially outward to an elevationally uppermost location which is received radially at the vertical radially outermost peripheral edge of such projection. To do so, the Marohl et al. surface 42 (Fig. 9) would need to extend upward and radially outward to be received radially at the far left vertical edge of projection 40 received which is shown being received radially outward of the depicted bolt. It simply does not. Accordingly, Marohl et al. does not disclose at least this facet of Applicant's amended independent claim 1. As neither Marohl et al. nor Sinha et al. disclose these limitations of Applicant's independent claim 1, the combination of such references does not encompass all of the limitations of Applicant's amended

independent claim 1. Accordingly, the obviousness rejection thereover should be withdrawn, and action to that end is requested.

Claim 1 also stands rejected as being obvious over a combination of Fodor et al. and Marohl et al. Marohl et al. is inapplicable to Applicant's amended claim 1 as asserted above. Further, Fodor et al.'s annular ring 134 does not comprise Applicant's stated projections, nor even does its uppermost surface comprise a radially extending uppermost straight surface which extends radially outward to an elevationally uppermost location which is received radially at the vertical radially outermost peripheral edge of its ring (see Fig. 2A). Accordingly at best, the uppermost configuration of the Fodor et al. ring 134 is analogous in construction to Fig. 9 in Marohl et al. and Fig. 6 in Sinha et al., and contrary to Applicant's amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Fodor et al. does not overcome a deficiency identified above with respect to Marohl et al., and Applicant's amended claim 1 recites something which is not encompassed by the combination of Fodor et al. and Marohl et al. Accordingly, the obviousness rejection thereover should be withdrawn, and action to that end is requested.

Certain of Applicant's dependent claims are amended to conform with amended claim language now appearing in Applicant's claim 1 and to correct a typographical error. Further, some of such amended claims have been "withdrawn" and are so designated as being "withdrawn" herein even where amended. The undersigned has done this as the Examiner in an earlier office

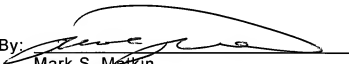
action objected to Applicant amending previously withdrawn claims and designating such as being “currently amended” as opposed to being “withdrawn”.

Regardless, Applicant’s dependent claims should be allowed as depending from allowable base claims, and for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggest in the cited art. Action to that end is requested. The withdrawn claims should now be brought back in as being dependent from an allowable generic claim. Action to that end is requested.

This application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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